

Sir, this has two implications firstly, our exports are being adversely affected because these foreign companies are selling the rice, which is a product of America, in the name of Basmati. Secondly, the attraction towards Basmati rice is diminishing. Therefore, I request the Government to pass some law whereby our *Basmati* is protected and other Indian products also get protection so that the foreign companies may not produce and sell their own products in the name of our products and the country's exports may not suffer.

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA (Ferozabad): Hon. Mr. Speaker, the area between Faizabad and Agra in my constituency has suffered great damage from the floods in the rivers Yamuna and Chambal. Nearly 10,000 cattle have died and six thousand houses have been destroyed. People have become homeless and are arranging for shelters by putting up small tents. The Prime Minister had announced relief for the flood-stricken people and Members in the House had also pleaded for it. The Government of Uttar Pradesh have asked for monetary assistance. It should not be delayed.

Sir, many people have died there. The Prime Minister of the country had given an assurance that compensation will be paid to the families of the deceased. People are dying in large number due to non-availability of medicines. Epidemic diseases are spreading, taking a big toll of life in absence of medicines. I request the Government of India to provide full compensation to the families of the deceased and make adequate arrangements for supply of medicines.

SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV (Gonda): Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, An agitation has started in Bihar from today in favour of the demand for Vananchal. This is the beginning of the blockade. The Prime Minister announced the formation of Uttarakhand in Uttar Pradesh with an eye on the coming elections. The struggle for Vananchal has been going on for so many years. From administrative point of view and from every other angle, it can become a viable state and should, therefore, be conceded as a full-fledged state. Hon. President had mentioned this in his speech also... (*Interruptions*) formation of Uttarakhand was announced, but there was no announcement for Vananchal due to which the people of that region are greatly agitated. If the Government do not announce it early, I am afraid the agitation might turn violent causing much damage. ... (*Interruptions*). The Government should pay attention to this issue.

SHRI R.L.P. VERMA (Kodarma): Mr. Speaker, there is discrimination against the candidates of S.C., S.T. and O.B.C. in all the examinations held by the Union Public Service Commission. For instance, in the examinations held in 1994-95 and 1996, only 22 per cent O.B.C. candidates were taken as against the reservation of 27

per cent for them. In the Civil Services examinations of 1994, only 25 per cent candidates were cleared. The O.B.C. candidates who qualify in the open competition are added to the reserved category. What will be their future? There does not appear to be any transparency in the implementation of the Government policy. The Railway Board results declared recently in Bangalore reflect adequate transparency.

In the policy that has been notified by the Government, I want that rule 15(1) of the 1994 Notification should be nullified and the interview marks should be placed at 100 instead of 300.

SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA (Satna): Mr. Speaker, I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the situation in village Patra falling under the Development Block of Amarpatan in my constituency. It is a forest area, inhabited by Adivasis. Between 1991 and 1994, Government officers and workers have misappropriated Rs 20 lakhs by preparing fake bills. Thumb impressions of minors were taken and money withdrawn in their names. Officers who tried to enquire into this racket have been transferred. Those involved in this scandal have got the protection of the Government. I want to request the hon. Minister to institute a high level enquiry and arrest and punish the guilty. The Government money which has been drawn in the name of Adivasis for Jeewan Dhara wells and Indira Awas should be immediately returned to the Adivasis.

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): Sir, there is a new dimension with regard to corruption—what we find in the functioning of banks in some parts of Orissa. Firstly, there is not enough money available in banks even to clear the salary bill of the Government employees, leave apart developmental expenditure bills, and thereby the developmental activities are adversely affected. Secondly, there are also shortages found that too increasingly in the stamped, sealed and tied note bundles issued on withdrawal by the depositors. This is a serious matter and also affects the credibility of the banks.

I would, therefore, request the Government of India, particularly the Finance Ministry—the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is present here; he should convey it personally to the Finance Minister—to look into this and remedial measures should be taken immediately.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Das, he has already raised the issue of shortage of currency notes. You can simply associate yourself.

PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS (Jalpaiguri): Sir, we are facing much difficulties for want of currency notes of

lower denomination, for want of currency notes of the denomination of Re. 1, Rs. 2 and Rs. 5, the Bhutanese currency of lower denomination is in circulation in the Northern region. So, it is a dangerous thing, and I request the Government to look into this matter so that the currency notes of lower denominations are made available.

SHRI A. SAMPATH (Chirayinkil): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government regarding the deadlock in the investigation carried out by the Central Bureau of Investigation on the death of Sister Abhaya, which happened four-and-a-half years ago in the district of Kottayam, Kerala. Sister Abhaya was an inmate of the Pious Tenth Convent, Kottayam. Her dead body was seen in a well of that Convent on 27th March, 1992, and the investigation was taken up by the CBI some three-and-a-half years back. The Special Investigation team under the Joint Director of the CBI came to Kottayam and after the conduction of a dummy experiment revealed that this was a clear case of murder. But so far, unfortunately, nobody has been arrested.

Another thing that I would like to point out is that a team of CBI men were posted at Kottayam. They were having their office at the PWD Travellers' Bungalow and they were conducting the investigation from there. But unfortunately, they have closed down that office at Kottayam. On 14th March, 1996 the CBI team came back to Delhi and now the investigation has come to a deadlock.

I would like to urge upon the Government to give necessary instructions to the Central Bureau of Investigation so that this investigation could be carried out and the CBI should expedite the investigation and arrest the culprits immediately. That is all, Sir.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your kind attention and through you I would like to urge upon the Parliamentary Affairs Minister about a very important matter. Yesterday while replying to the debate on Rural Development, the hon. Minister has admitted in the House that he himself during his tours to several States had witnessed the non-utilisation and mis-utilisation of rural funds which are usually granted by Parliament for various schemes like Jawahar Rozgar Yojana and Indira Awas Yojna and many other programmes.

Article 148 of the Constitution of India gives ample power to the Comptroller & Auditor General to audit the entire matter both in the purview of the States and Union. Article 243 after the 74th Amendment of the Constitution gives the power to Governor to raise the taxes and revenues of the panchayats. I would only like to submit through you that there are serious misappropriations going on in the name of the poor people's money and funds. No forest is there, but the money has been shown.

In this country, we are entrusting every scam to CBI. I would like to know from the Government and from the concerned Legal Department whether a regular Cell could be appointed to go into the matter as to why thousands and thousands of crores of rupees of development funds for rural poor people are being misappropriated in the name of implementation of the schemes which are nothing and not being accounted for in the books. There are several audit reports.

This matter is very important and the CBI must look into this irrespective of political party and power of the States. This is my submission because thousands and thousands of crores of rupees are involved and this Parliament has voted this account.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I want to say one thing today. From now on, each hon. Member will get only one chance to raise a matter during zero hour in a week. Otherwise, it is impossible to distribute time to everybody. One chance one week for each hon. Member would be given. Therefore, those hon. Members who have got a chance today will not get it tomorrow.

13.22 hours

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to protect the interests of sugarcane growers in UP by removing the role of sugarcane cooperatives**

[Translation]

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH (Meerut): Mr. Speaker, Sir, due to surplus production of sugarcane in 1995-96 in UP, the sugarcane growers have suffered huge financial loss. The middlemen purchased sugarcane at the rate of Rs. 30/- per quintal from the farmers and sold it at the rate of Rs. 70/- to the mills. Purchasing slips were not issued to those farmers who had sugarcane. The inquiries conducted so far in this regard have confirmed that corruption and irregularities have taken place. So I request the Government that the inquiries pending may be completed and the sugarcane cooperatives should have no role as between the sugar mills and the farmers.

13.24 hours

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair)

- (ii) **Need to provide special grant to state Government of Madhya Pradesh to overcome acute drinking water problem in Sagar**

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar): Sir, Sagar city has been facing acute problem of drinking water during summer season for the last several years. The work on Rajghat Project launched to overcome the problem has